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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1949.

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Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1949. The year has been an eminently satisfactory one from the Public Health point of view. There was in the last months of the year a small epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the Thirsk area but the disease was mild. Only one case of Diphtheria was reported, so demonstrating the efficiency of Immunisation. The National Health Service Act in the first full year of administration necessitated certain changes which have worked smoothly and efficiently.

I would again record my appreciation of the great help received from the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector and all other members of the Council's Staff.

Public Health Staff.

Clerk	W. A. Wilkinson
Sanitary Inspector	F. Metcalfe
Additional Sanitary Inspector ...	R. M. Sharphouse
Medical Officer of Health (part time)	W. G. MacArthur

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	71,544
Estimated residential population (R.G's figures) Civilians	12,500
Number of inhabited houses	3,665
Rateable Value	£69,692
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£280

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	*Male*	*Female*	
Live Births—	209	116	93	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	198	109	89	1000 of the
Illegitimate	11	7	4	population 16.72
Still Births—	4	2	2	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	3	2	1	of all
Illegitimate	1	—	1	Births 19.13
Deaths	159	89	70	Death Rate per 1000 of the population 12.72

Deaths from puerperal causes—
(from the R.G's short list)

No. 29 Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil
No. 30 Other maternal causes ...	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Male	*Female*
Total Deaths	10	5
,, ,, Legitimate	9	5
,, ,, Illegitimate	1	—

All Infants per 1000 live births ...	71.77
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	70.70
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	90.90
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) (Heading 13—16 inclusive)	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 10)	Ni
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 4)	Ni
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) (Heading 25)	Ni.
Deaths from Poliomyelitis & Polio-Enceph (Heading 11)	Ni.

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff.

See above.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years this is still done for us at the Laboratory at the County Hall, Northallerton. Since the

zoning of Hospitals a part of the area is under the York Management Committee and part under the Harrogate Committee, some of the work is undertaken by these Hospital Laboratories.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of Ambulance transport is under the control of the County Medical Officer. We are very well served in this area as both Ambulances and Sitting Case Cars are stationed here and a staff of drivers is always on duty.

(c) Nursing in the home.

This is now completely undertaken by the County Council through the County Medical Officer. The chief difficulty in the year has been to provide, in one or two parts of the district, housing accommodation for the Nurse.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Council has none of these under its control.

(e) Hospitals.

As mentioned these are now grouped under different management Committees and the Council has no direct control over them.

For Sections C., D. and E., I refer you to the accompanying report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over infectious and other diseases.

As with General Hospitals, so with Infectious Diseases Hospitals; these have passed out of the control of the Local Authority.

Diphtheria. As previously mentioned one case was notified in a boy who had been immunised. The case was exceedingly mild and was isolated at home.

Scarlet Fever. 12 cases were notified during the year, all of a mild nature; 11 of these were removed to an Isolation Hospital and one isolated at home.

Measles. 29 cases were notified. No schools were closed.

Whooping Cough. 8 cases were notified during the year.

Pneumonia. One case of Pneumonia was notified and it was removed to a General Hospital for nursing.

Puerperal Fever and Opthalmia Neonatorum. No case of either was notified.

Poliomyelitis. No case was notified.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	*Total Cases*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total Deaths.*
Scarlet Fever	12	11	Nil
Pneumonia	1	1	Nil
Measles	29	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	8	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	1	Nil	Nil

Age	*Disease Scarlet Fever*	*Disease Diphtheria*	*Disease Pneumonia*	*Disease Measles*	*Disease Whooping Cough*
1-2	—	—	—	3	1
2-3	—	—	—	2	—
3-4	—	—	—	4	—
4-5	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	9	—	—	17	5
10-15	2	1	—	1	—
15-25	1	—	—	—	2
25-45	—	—	—	2	—
45-65	—	—	1	—	—
Total	12	1	1	29	8

3. Cancer. No action taken.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

Although the administration of Hospital treatment, including x-rays has been altered under the New Health Act, we are I am glad to say, still able to have our cases seen at the Rutson Hospital, Northallerton, and the Tuberculosis Officer for the area is ready and willing to consult and supervise treatment which, under the present restriction of available beds, is mostly at home.

Age Periods	*New Cases*				*Deaths*			
	Respiratory		*Non-Respiratory*		*Respiratory*		*Non-Respiratory*	
	M	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
5-10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-65	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0

Causes of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District in 1949.

	CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	1	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus	2	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	—
15.	Cancer of Breast	—	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	9	5
17.	Diabetes	1	—
18.	Intra cranial Vascular Lesions	5	8
19.	Heart Diseases	32	28
20.	Other diseases of the Circulatory System	3	4
21.	Bronchitis	3	—
22.	Pneumonia	8	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	1	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	2
28.	Nephritis	4	3
31.	Premature Birth	2	2
32.	Congenital Malformation Birth Injury Infants dis:	4	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	3
35.	Other Violent Causes	1	2
36.	All other causes	6	3
	Totals	89	70

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MacARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1949.

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Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1949.

Mr. R. M. Sharphouse has, as your Housing Inspector, supplied the information of duties carried out under the Housing Act, Surveys for Housing Sites, Council House Applications and Re-housing.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

(a) There has been no complaint as to the quality of the water supplied in the Area.

The Thirsk and District Water Company supply many of the villages direct, their water being derived from deep springs in the Kepwick area, which water is hard ; also from soft moorland water at Boltby. Both waters are mixed before delivery to Thirsk to ensure a water of satisfactory hardness for consumption.

The Council supply other villages with piped water derived from springs or bore-holes. These waters are periodically examined and samples taken have shewn same to be satisfactory for public supply.

(b) The quantity of the water was not, however, entirely satisfactory. At droughty times of the year, the yield from the springs is insufficient to meet the demands of all consumers.

This is a matter that has been taken up with the Ministry of Health for unification of the supplies over the whole of the area.

Particulars of Parishes as to supply of Water from public water mains.

Parish	*Popn.*	*No. of dwelling houses.*	*No. of Popn. Supplied. From Mains.*	*Stand Pipes.*	*Remarks.*
Ainderby Quernhow	79	17	—	—	Scheme pending
Bagby	215	66	156	36	
Balk	69	14	55	—	
*Boltby	179	52	—	—	No information
Birdforth	50	9	—	—	
Cowesby	65	23	—	—	Private Supply
*Carlton Miniott	621	160	548	60	
Catton	86	21	—	—	Scheme pending
*Dalton	259	71	156	54	
Ellenthorpe	61	12	—	—	Scheme pending
Eldmire	54	10	45	—	
Fawdington	24	4	24	—	
*Felixkirk	102	21	70	—	
Holme	42	15	33	9	
Hood Grange	10	1	—	—	Private Supply
Howe	40	12	—	—	Private Supply
Hutton Sessay	94	23	92	—	
Humberton	69	14	—	—	
*Kepwick	146	35	140	—	
Kilburn	291	78	171	44	
*Kirby Wiske	188	47	160	24	
Knayton	277	76	189	9	
Kirby Hill	155	31	85	50	
*Kirby Knowle	110	23	110	—	
Langthorpe	338	115	297	24	
*Maunby	169	45	112	—	
Milby	70	23	39	—	
*Newby Wiske	167	49	96	24	
Newsham	189	37	35	25	
*N. Kilvington	81	10	24	—	
*Norton-le-Clay	51	23	—	—	Scheme pending
Pickhill	291	80	171	42	

*Sandhutton	267	63	176	60	
Sessay	260	69	244	20	
Sinderby	97	33	36	12	
*S Otterington	289	90	162	54	
*Sowerby	2445	814	2205	214	
*S. Kilvington	253	70	180	—	
Skipton Bridge	93	26	—	50	Scheme pending
Sutton	241	86	174	30	
Thirkleby	246	58	196	—	
Thirlby	102	24	50	—	Scheme pending
*Thirsk	2335	811	1525	575	
*Thornbrough	16	3	2	—	
Thornton Br.	73	12	—	—	
*Thornton-le-Moor	248	84	219	24	
*Thornton-le-Street	132	32	76	—	
*Topcliffe	530	125	448	32	
Upsall	104	25	—	—	Private Supply

* *Thirsk & District Water Company.*

Drainage and Sewage.

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were carried out during the year.

The provision of sewage disposal works for Thirsk and Sowerby becomes each year more urgent. The river Codbeck into which untreated sewage is discharged, is extremely bad during low water. One of the main sewer outlets is in close proximity to School Premises and this has been a source of complaint over many years. The stream at this point is now further fouled with soil drainage from the new Council Houses on the Sutton Road Estate, and during low water conditions are particularly bad.

One is of the opinion that in the interests of public health, the erection of additional Council Houses on the Sutton Road Estate should be deferred until proper sewage disposal arrangements are provided.

Public Cleansing.

The Scavenging works undertaken by the Council covers the whole of the area and is carried out by our own vehicles and labour.

The service also includes the emptying of cesspools, the sweeping of the Market Place after the weekly Monday Market, and also cleaning the Market Place each Sunday morning.

A new 10 cube yard Austin Scavenging Vehicle was purchased and came into service towards the end of the year.

This replaced an old Karrier which had to be taken off the road as it was constantly breaking down and causing delay.

Ashpits and middens are emptied once each month throughout the district and dustbins weekly in the two principal parishes, the collected refuse being tipped in some disused quarries. So far as possible the tip is controlled, a man being employed at the tip to level and straighten up.

The wet filth from closet pails and cesspools is disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes.

The total miles covered during the year on Public Cleansing work was 32,182.

Salvage.

The total value of salvage sold was £222 and comprised the following materials :—

Waste Paper 28 tons 19¾ cwts., Bottles and Jars 2 tons 4½ cwts., Textiles 18½ cwts., Metal 1 ton 18½ cwts.

Miles covered for the collection of salvage during the year totalled 1349.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, Infestation Order, 1943.

The Council employ one Rodent Operator for the work of rodent destruction throughout their area.

During the year the following inspections were made :—

Total Inspections	1694
Total Re-inspections	890

This inspection work located the following infestations :- Major 6, and Minor 139.

Poison baits used totalled a weight of 1844 ozs., and gave an estimated Kill of 2230 rats.

Poisons used were Red Squill, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide.

As in previous years no claim was made against the Council of any animal or poultry being poisoned, proving the care taken by our operator in the laying of the poison baits.

Sewers.

The Sewers in Thirsk and Sowerby had two maintenance treatments during the year in accordance with Ministry instructions and methods. Only small pre-bait takes were shewn in each treatment and these were poison baited with Zinc Phosphide. The small " takes " in the sewers are no doubt due to frequent treatment of rat infested old drains, which by prompt treatment tends to keep the sewers and town free of rats.

The sewer outfalls in the villages are regularly inspected and treated as found necessary.

Refuse Tips.

Our refuse tip at Birdforth is kept under control and poison baited so soon as the rat colony build up justifies.

Towards the end of the year a big build up of rats was noted, but vegetation was too dense to effectually carry out treatment until a full survey was made, and brambles and white thorn bushes cleared from the tip surroundings. It was then pre-baited four days and poison baited on the fifth day with 110 oz. of Zinc Phospide poison bait, the estimated Kill being 200 rats—42 bodies were collected and buried.

A further treatment was carried out the following month when 70 oz. of Arsenious Oxide poison bait was used, the estimated Kill being 60 rats. At the end of November another big influx was noted and this was dealt with early in December. The poison bait put down was changed to Zinc Phosphide, 160 oz. being laid.

The estimated Kill was 180 rats, 44 bodies being collected and buried, these were found on the tip surface but there would be many more in the bank sides where it was not possible to locate them.

In agricultural districts, rat colonies are bred in field banks and ditches and we have noted before how they make big raids to refuse tips.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Public Health.	Refuse Collection & Disposal ...	87
	Sewage & Sewerage	118
	Drainage	153
	Water Supplies	69
	Public Conveniences ...	36
	Hotel Conveniences ...	12
	Building Bye-laws	168
	Nuisances	68
	Complaints	20
	Keeping of Animals ...	3
	Infectious Diseases	3
	Tents, Vans & Sheds ...	13
	Schools	9
	Building Licences	13
	New Houses under erection ...	69
Public Health & Housing—Housing Repairs & Improvements ...		34
Factories Act—	Factories	12
Food & Drugs Act.	Milk Supplies	37
	Bakehouses	6
	School Canteens	4
	Cafes	8
	Ice Cream Premises ...	10
	Restaurants	5
	Fried Fish & Chip Premises ...	7
	Unsound Food	36
Shops Act—	General Inspections	7
Petroleum Acts—	Petrol Storage	5
	Carbide Storage	2

Housing Act—	Sites for New Houses	...	35
	Rural Housing Survey	...	11
	Hutments Conversions	...	86
	Council House Applications	...	75

Number of Houses disinfected	...	...	9
,, ,, treated for Vermin	...	...	3
,, Water samples submitted for analysis		...	21
,, Sewers repaired or cleaned	...	...	54
,, Drains repaired or cleaned	...	...	107
,, Drains smoke tested	...	...	18
,, Tanks cleaned out	...	...	226
,, Council Houses minor repairs		...	22

Notices, etc.

Informal Notices to Owners or Occupiers	...	134
Statutory Notices to Owners or Occupiers	...	18
Number of Letters sent out ...	...	657

Smoke abatement	...	No statutory action
Swimming Bath	...	None
Bed Bugs	...	No action.

Petroleum Regulations.

No. of Licences issued :—	Storage of Petrol	27
	Storage of Calcium Carbide	2

Slaughterman's Licences.

No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	8

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses	...	...	None
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	No action
Slaughterhouses	...	...	None
Shops	...	...	No action

Food & Drugs Act.
The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of Distributors Registered	...	...	2
Sale of Ice Cream—Registrations	...	...	4

Housing.

1. By the Local Authority.

26 houses were completed and occupied in the following parishes :— Thornton-le-Moor 6, South Otterington 6, Knayton 2, Kilburn 4, Kirby Hill 8. All being of the normal three and four bedroomed type in brickwork, with the exception of Kilburn where special stone faced houses were erected so as to be in keeping with other buildings in the locality.

The state of progress in acquiring further sites was as follows at the year end :—

(a) Sites obtained and plans in preparation for houses.

Thirsk, Sutton Road Site No. 2. ...	26 houses
Topcliffe	2 ,,

(b) Sites approved negotiating for purchase.

Sowerby, Croft Heads	25 houses
Cowesby	4 ,,
Upsall	4 ,,

(c) Sites agreed on by Council but liable to Planning Authority and Ministry approval.

Pickhill	12 houses
Sandhutton	4 ,,
Knayton	8 ,,
Thornton-le-Street	4 ,,

2. Houses erected under Private Enterprise Building.

The restrictions on the issue of licences for the erection of new houses was still in force in 1949.

Seven licences were issued by the Council and included 4 for Farm Cottages, 2 on compassionate grounds and one for a Medical Practitioner.

During the year a total of 19 houses were completed, namely :—

14 on licences issued in 1948.
1 on licence issued in 1949.
A Farm house under a Ministry of Works licence.
2 Farm Cottages by the Crown.

Control of Civil Building (other than new houses).

36 licences were issued by the Council during the year

for works carried out to houses and totalled an expenditure of £12,784.

Other housing work to form additional units of accommodation was the alteration to a large house to accommodate two families, also the provision of three flats over business premises.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

On 1st October, 1949, the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, came into operation under which the inspection and supervision of Dairy Farms passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council retaining control of those persons selling milk by retail, other than producers.

2 persons were registered under the new Regulations for the sale of a special designated milk in bottles.

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat.

The slaughtering of animals for food is still carried out at the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Northallerton, and the meat conveyed by motor lorry to Thirsk and the district for distribution to the butchers.

Other Foods.

Ice Cream.

10 persons are registered in the Area for the Sale of Ice Cream. In only one case is Ice Cream manufactured on the premises, the "Hot-Mix" method being used.

Cafes, Restaurants and other premises where food is prepared and sold are kept under supervision so far as possible.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.